

# HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 606

By Naifeh

A RESOLUTION to honor the memory of Charles Edward (Ed) Murray, former Speaker of the House of Representatives.

WHEREAS, the members of this General Assembly were greatly saddened to learn of the passing of our friend and former colleague, Charles Edward (Ed) Murray, who so ably served the people of Tennessee as Speaker of the House of Representatives from 1987 until 1991; and

WHEREAS, a member of the House of Representatives of the 87<sup>th</sup> – 96<sup>th</sup> Tennessee General Assemblies who served from 1971 until 1991, Ed Murray was an exemplary public servant and consummate professional who worked assiduously to improve the quality of life for his fellow citizens, especially his constituents in the 39<sup>th</sup> House District, comprised of Franklin, Moore, and Grundy Counties; and

WHEREAS, Charles Edward (Ed) Murray was born on August 16, 1928, in Dechard, Tennessee, to Richard Oliver and Patty (Moffatt) Murray. He attended Franklin County Schools and the University of the South at Sewanee in Franklin County prior to obtaining his Bachelor of Science degree from Middle Tennessee State University in 1952; and

WHEREAS, a proud American, Ed Murray served in the United States Navy from 1946 to 1949, and was called again to active service in 1951, completing his second tour of duty in 1953 upon receipt of his honorable discharge; and

WHEREAS, a skilled aviator, Ed Murray began his service to the State of Tennessee as a pilot in 1955, flying planes for state government until 1969; and

WHEREAS, while employed by the State of Tennessee, Mr. Murray pursued a legal education at the Y.M.C.A. Night Law School, now the Nashville School of Law, earning his Doctor of Jurisprudence in 1965; and

WHEREAS, in 1969, Mr. Murray established a law practice in Winchester, Tennessee, the Hickerson and Murray law firm, and on August 30, 1969, he married his beloved wife, Sandra Fields, the daughter of Litton and Luella (Rice) Fields; and

WHEREAS, a respected lawyer and prominent member of the Winchester community, Ed Murray won election to the House of Representatives of the 87<sup>th</sup> Tennessee General Assembly, in November of 1970, to represent the good people of the 39<sup>th</sup> House District; and

WHEREAS, during his time in the General Assembly, Representative Murray sponsored and won passage of legislation that sought to provide economic prosperity for Tennesseans by reducing taxes, especially the inheritance tax; and

WHEREAS, a recognized leader among his peers, Representative Ed Murray served as Chairman of the Middle Tennessee Democratic Caucus during the 90<sup>th</sup> General Assembly and was Treasurer of the House Democratic Caucus during the 92<sup>nd</sup> - 94<sup>th</sup> General Assemblies; and

WHEREAS, recognized for his wisdom and legal expertise, Ed Murray served as chair of the prestigious House Commerce Committee during the 90<sup>th</sup> - 94<sup>th</sup> General Assemblies, having previously rendered sterling service as chair of the Inheritance Tax Subcommittee during the 90<sup>th</sup> General Assembly, as well as the Salaries Subcommittee during the 92<sup>nd</sup> General Assembly; and

WHEREAS, in the culmination of a distinguished legislative career, in January of 1987, Ed Murray was elected to the esteemed office of Speaker of the House for the 95<sup>th</sup> Tennessee General Assembly and won re-election to the honored post again in the 96<sup>th</sup> General Assembly; and

WHEREAS, retiring from the legislature after the completion of twenty years of service in 1991, Speaker Murray was then appointed to the Tennessee Claims Commission by Governor Ned McWherter and served on the commission until taking his well deserved retirement in July 1995; and

WHEREAS, Speaker Ed Murray was a respected member and past president of the Franklin County Bar Association and the Franklin County Chamber of Commerce; former member and past vice-chairman of the Southern Growth Policies Board; former chairman of the Winchester Airport Board; and a former member of the Motlow College Development Council; and

WHEREAS, Speaker Murray had also been a member of Quiet Birdmen, the University of Tennessee Space Institute Support Council, and American Legion Post 44; and

WHEREAS, having retired to Florida in 2004, Speaker Murray was an avid outdoorsman who enjoyed hunting – especially deer, pheasant, and ducks – fishing, and vegetable gardening, in addition to his longtime passion for flying; and

WHEREAS, survived by his beloved wife Sandra Fields Murray, Speaker Ed Murray will be sadly mourned, but fondly remembered by a vast multitude of dear friends, former colleagues, and admirers across Tennessee and this great nation; and

WHEREAS, Charles Edward (Ed) Murray leaves behind an indelible legacy of integrity and probity in public life, compassion and loyalty in private life, and diligence and dedication in all his chosen endeavors; and

WHEREAS, greatly respected and deeply admired by his many friends and colleagues, Speaker Murray was a thoughtful and conscientious gentleman who loved Tennessee and took great pride in making his community and State a better place for all; his unmatched record in public service stands as a monument to a life well lived; and

WHEREAS, it is fitting that this General Assembly should pause to remember the extraordinary life of Speaker Murray; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED SIXTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we honor the memory of Speaker of the House Charles Edward (Ed) Murray, reflecting fondly upon his impeccable character, his many years of service to the people of Tennessee, and his stalwart commitment to living the examined life with courage and conviction.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we express our sympathy and offer our condolences to the family of Speaker Murray.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation to the family of Speaker Murray, with this final clause omitted from such copy.